

NARA Park and Miracle Field Accessibility

Assessments Performed 4/2014

SITE/ACCESS/ENTRANCES – Existing Conditions

 NARA's main entrance, the lower parking lot, with ADA parking is at 25 Ledge Rock Way off Main Street, and has paved, level sidewalks and walkways. Persons with disabilities may enter a paved trail around the pond from two points in this parking lot.

 NARA has a second paved entrance, the upper parking lot, with ADA parking. It is 0.3 mi north on Quarry Road off Main Street.

 There is a 0.1 mile bituminous sidewalk on a steep hill (10% slope) connecting Ledge Rock Way to Quarry Road. There is no sidewalk on Quarry Road.

 **The Miracle Field** entrance is just past the upper parking lot, heading north on Quarry Road. This facility may also be entered via paved trail from adjacent NARA Park.

There is a wide, paved trail from the upper parking lot down to the amphitheater. The amphitheater is abutted by level lawn area. It is approximately 75' from the nearest ADA parking spaces to the amphitheater. The slope is 5%.

PARKING – Existing Conditions

NARA has two main parking areas. The **Miracle Field** has one.

 **NARA's** main entrance, the lower parking lot at 25 Ledge Rock Way has approximately 100 spaces with 5 ADA parking spaces.

 **NARA's** upper parking lot is located 0.3 mi up Quarry Road from Main Street. It is paved and level with 2 ADA parking spaces.

 **The Miracle Field** is adjacent to NARA Park. Its paved driveway and parking lot are at the end of Quarry Road. It has 8 ADA parking spaces. There is a 260' paved perimeter trail surrounding the baseball diamond, primarily <5% slope connecting to the NARA Park loop trail.

TRAILS – Existing Conditions

 NARA Pond Perimeter Loop – paved, 0.5 mile with a 280' level wooden boardwalk with railings and 2 benches on bridge. There are many more benches along trail installed at least ever 200'.

 NARA Park Perimeter Loop – 1 mile, mostly 5% slope. There are 3 sections of this trail where slope is 10%-15% for 50'-130.

 Miracle Field Perimeter Loop – 700' long.

NARA Amphitheater trail – paved, 200’ from Quarry Road parking lot to Amphitheater, which is surrounded by lawn. There is a rustic, stone amphitheater 200’ away. The surface terrain is mostly level, grass or packed stone dust. There are two stone bridges 100’ apart over a stream and beside two stormwater treatment-created impoundments, with viewing areas and informational panels.

Plans for Improvement to Trails

- 2014 The **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)** is a multi-use recreational trail that will run along the former Lowell Secondary railroad line owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 600’ of this trail will be shared with the **NARA Pond Loop**. Phase 2A is a 4.88-mile long segment of land that will extend from the Phase I completed trail, beginning at the intersection of Route 225 and Route 27 in Westford, heading south for about 800 feet through Carlisle and then into Acton. It continues in a southerly direction through Acton for about 4.5 miles.
- Create a trail and parks map for park kiosks, **Miracle Field** and Recreation Department websites.
- Post QR codes on kiosks for downloading onto smart phones.
- Incorporate the **BFRT** rail trail into recreation programming, i.e. inline skating, biking.
- Have surrey bikes available at **NARA** Park for rentals.

SIGNS – Existing Conditions



ADA Parking signs at all 3 parking lots. Braille *Men’s and Women’s* on bath-house bathroom doors.

SERVICES/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/ PROGRAMMING - Existing Conditions

-  There is an ADA beach wheelchair at NARA on loan to beach guests. Staff install interlocking plastic ramp panels for easier beach and water access via wheelchair.
- Staff can provide guided tours to groups of citizens. Topics can be birds, plants, habitats, environmental protection, etc.
- Please contact nr@acton-ma.gov to request a custom tour or program.

Plans for Improvement: Create self-guided audio tours of NARA Park and the Miracle Field that can be downloaded onto smart phones, and/or may be borrowed from the library on mp3 players.

WATER ACCESS - Existing Conditions



NARA Beach – there are paved ADA walkways connecting the parking and trails to the beach. There is a beach wheelchair, for free use by beach patrons. Staff install interlocking plastic panels for wheelchair access to beach or water. The beach is 200’ from the ADA parking spaces at 25 Ledge Rock Way lower parking lot.



NARA Pond Dock – ADA ramp and 30’x8’ dock with toe bumpers for fishing and water viewing. Dock surface is 1’ above water line.



NARA Pond Boardwalk – 280’ ADA zig-zag design wooden boardwalk with wood railings is part of the 0.5 mile pond loop trail. There are 2 benches installed near the center of the boardwalk.

NARA Wildlife Pond – Access is from perimeter park loop trail. Surface is 5% grade or less, packed stone dust or grass. The ground is slightly uneven with small lumps and bumps across a stone bridge. There are two educational info panels and a wildlife sculpture in the center of the pond. The associated wetlands were developed with grant funding, designed to treat storm water and to provide wildlife habitat.

RESTROOMS - Existing Conditions



An **ADA** portable toilet at the edge of the upper Quarry Road parking lot is on site from May – November.



The **NARA** bath house is adjacent to and 20' away from the Ledge Rock Way parking lot. It has ADA men's and women's restrooms. Open May-November. Signs on doors are also in Braille.

There are two accessible outdoor showers at the bath house.

BENCHES - Existing Conditions

There are wooden benches installed at least every 200' around the NARA Pond perimeter Loop trail. They are installed on grass, adjacent to the paved trail. There is some erosion and uneven terrain in front of some of the benches, especially those in close proximity to the water's edge.

Plans for improvement

Some benches along the pond edge will be relocated and re-installed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation while constructing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. This will improve the accessibility to the benches along this 600' section of trail.

PICNICKING - Existing Conditions

Five out of 17 picnic tables located at the bath house patio area are ADA.

A total of 20 new picnic tables will be located at the new picnic pavilion. 2 are ADA.

Plans for Improvement – 2014 ADA Picnic Pavilion shelter, stone fireplace, grills are under construction.

NARA PLAYGROUND - Existing Conditions

There is a playground at **NARA** accessible via paved trail from the 25 Ledge Rock Way lower parking lot. The playground has engineered wood chips as ground cover. Please see playground inventory for details in Appendix G-16.

RAMPS Existing Conditions



There is an ADA ramp behind the **NARA** Amphitheater for access to the stage.



There is an ADA ramp at the **Miracle Field** from the parking lot to the field and bleachers.



At NARA Pond there is a 30' ADA ramp connecting the walkway to the dock.

NARA PERENNIAL GARDEN - Existing Conditions



There is a 45' level trail, with packed stone dust surface, through a perennial garden adjacent to the bath house patio.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS - Existing Conditions

All water fountains are seasonally operational from May-November.



One ADA water fountain at the **Miracle Field**.



One ADA water fountain adjacent to the upper Quarry Road parking lot.



One ADA water fountain adjacent to the **NARA** playground.



One ADA water fountain attached to the snackbar building at the **NARA** bath house lower parking lot.

PLAYING FIELDS



The Miracle Field is a Little League-sized baseball field designed to accommodate all levels of ability. **The Joseph Lalli Miracle Field** opened in September 2012 and is located at 75 Quarry Road adjacent to **NARA** Park in Acton, MA. It has a completely rubberized surface that allows for safe and easy mobility for all. There are no raised surfaces to interfere with wheelchairs, walkers or crutches. In addition, the field is completely enclosed by a fence which provides a safe environment for those players who tend to wander or have no sense of danger. Please see <http://www.miracleleagueofma.com/> for more information.

There is one regulation size softball field at NARA.

There is a large, level playing field at NARA that can accommodate X# games simultaneously. It is run by the Acton Recreation Department in cooperation with several local nonprofit sports organizations.

AMPHITHEATER



The performing stage at NARA is surrounded by lawn. It sits on a level surface between the paved park loop trail and a large, grassy, elevated amphitheater bowl. It is wheelchair accessible by paved walkway. Access to the stage snack bar is ADA compliant. The lawn area in front of the stage is level, compact grass.

SNACKBARS



There are two snack bars at NARA. One is at the bathhouse and the other is at the amphitheater.

Plans for improvements

An ADA comfort station, located between the Miracle Field and playing fields adjacent to the upper parking lot, is in the early planning stages. Plans include ADA bathrooms, snack bar and indoor meeting area.

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

At NARA there are two “beach” volleyball courts with sandy surfaces, located 50’ from the Ledge Rock Way parking lot.